(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to counter such propaganda by Pak TV;

(c) whether Government propose to ban telecast of Pak TV programmes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to disseminate information regarding the policies and schemes of the Government. Under the J&K special package, expansion and upgradation of AIR and DDD infrastructure has been undertaken, which will increase the electronic media coverage in border areas. Special programmes are aired on DD and AIR to counter hostile propaganda.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pak propaganda on Kashmir issue

388. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any analysis of the success or otherwise of the AIR and Doordarshan in Jammu and Kashmir to counter the PAK propaganda and the negative publicity on Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has made an analysis of viewership and usefulness of the programmes telecast to counter the Pak propaganda and the negative publicity on Kashmir. The survey has found that the programme reflect the true conditions in Kashmir and expose the false propaganda of Pakistan.

Under the J&K Special Package, extension and upgradation of AIR and Doordarshan infrastructure have been undertaken in order to increase the electronic media coverage in border areas. Suitable programmes are aired by

All India Radio and Doordarshan to counter hostile propaganda and to maintain communal harmony.

Downsizing of the Ministry

389. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is going through any downsizing plan; and

(b) if so, the names of the offices of the Ministry and the number of staff going to get VRS?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Introduction of DD Bharati Channel

390. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved programmes for the newly introduced DD Bharati Channel which will be aired during the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and efforts made to invite sponsors for these programmes and the response received, so far; and

(b) whether it is mandatory to beam the DD Bharati Channel by the cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) All programme matters, including programming of DD Bharati, fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, an autonomous statutory body. Government does not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati has intimated that DD Bharati Channel has started functioning from 26.1.2002.

(b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan had invited proposals under the sponsored category for programmes on health, children, music, dance,